Minimizing Influenza Transmission during Exhibitions – Checklist for Protecting Guests, Exhibitors, and Pigs

Important Considerations

- *Pigs may not show signs of illness*
- *People may infect pigs*
- *Pigs may infect people- exhibitors and guests*
- *Certain people are at higher risk of severe illness if they are around infected pigs*
- *Some people have died due to exposure to swine influenza at shows and fairs*

The best practices described below are based on the **Measures to Minimize Influenza Transmission at Swine Exhibitions, 2018.** Available at: _____

Preparation and Planning Prior to the Exhibition

- ☐ Establish active response plan
  - ☐ Maintain current contact information for all exhibitors
  - ☐ Gather contact information: state animal health, state and/or local public health, and local veterinarian
    - ☐ Check for after hour phone numbers of the key contacts
  - ☐ Consider chain of command and identify spokesperson in case of an incident
  - ☐ Record keeping forms available for tracking vital information such as pig temperature, arrival/release, owner contact, and etc.
- ☐ Identify a veterinarian who will be present or on call for the duration of the program
  - ☐ Veterinarian should be equipped to test pigs with signs of influenza
- ☐ Signage at the entrance of exhibition
  - ☐ All animals can carry germs that make people sick
  - ☐ Some people are more likely to get sick: babies and children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems or chronic illnesses
  - ☐ Wash your hands with soap and water right after visiting the animals
  - ☐ No food, drinks, baby bottles, pacifiers, toys or strollers in animal areas
  - ☐ Make sure kids don't put their finger or other things in their mouth
- ☐ Hand washing stations and hand washing signage at exits
  - ☐ Plan in place for restocking supplies- paper towels, soap, and running water
- ☐ Identify a temporary isolation area
- ☐ Limit the time pigs are congregated, co-mingled, and held at facility
  - ☐ Ideally pigs should be kept no more than 72 hours; no holdover pigs
  - ☐ Locate long term pigs (i.e. big boars and birthing center pigs) away from areas where short term pigs are housed
  - ☐ Consider order of show schedule
    - ☐ Terminal pigs last
- ☐ Gather basic supplies such as disinfectants, thermometers, gloves, masks, and booties
- ☐ Locate food service areas away from animal barns
- ☐ Clean and disinfect facility
  - ☐ Gates, chutes, sort panels, scales, feeders, waterers, and show supplies

Show-time Essentials

- ☐ Pre-show meeting with exhibitors including adult supervisors, parents, 4-H leaders, and FFA instructors
  - ☐ How to monitor and report sick pigs
  - ☐ How to monitor and report sick exhibitors
  - ☐ Possibility for emergency changes in arrival/release dates/times
  - ☐ Good hygiene practices for both personnel and animals such as washing hands, not sharing equipment, not sleeping in the animal areas, and maintaining clean animals
- ☐ Monitor weather forecast
  - ☐ Extreme heat condition
    - ☐ Alter schedule to minimize heat exposure (i.e. arrival/release during overnight, early release, etc.)
    - ☐ Control ambient temperature by using ventilation and other methods for cooling (i.e. sprinklers on roof)
- ☐ Record keeping of animals and exhibitors:
  - ☐ 24-hour contact information for exhibitors
  - ☐ Animal identification
  - ☐ Arrival tracking
  - ☐ Stalling location
  - ☐ Release tracking

In the Event of an Outbreak or Other Health Event

- ☐ Notify and work with:
  - ☐ Show veterinarian
  - ☐ Animal health officials- State veterinarian
  - ☐ State or local health department
- ☐ Implement biosecurity protocol
    - ☐ Limit access to pigs and barn area, especially to people at high risk
    - ☐ Personal protective equipment
    - ☐ Sick and/or dead animal removal
    - ☐ Testing plan for sick pigs and sick people
    - ☐ Methods for cleaning and disinfecting
    - ☐ Hold sick market pigs until they recover
- ☐ Implement methods of communication with authorities and media
  - ☐ Identify official spokesperson
  - ☐ Identify person to facilitate communications with the show/fair, public health officials, and animal health authorities
- ☐ Maintain good record keeping, isolation logs, and monitoring of pig health (temperature and health condition)

Preparation and Planning After the Exhibition

- ☐ Review and reflect on procedures and activities during exhibition
- ☐ Start planning for future exhibition based on outcome
  - ☐ Focus on improving areas where there was a lack of planning and execution
  - ☐ Focus on new information given from the public and animal authorities
- ☐ Clean and disinfect animal areas and equipment